S7155-2

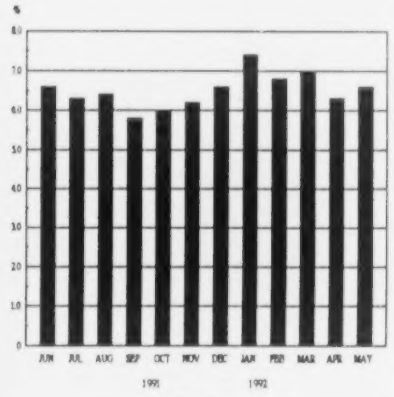
Employment Trends

MAY 1992

Nonfarm Employment Rises...

South Carolina's economy produced 8,000 nonfarm jobs in May as total nonfarm employment reached 1,503,800. Seasonal expansion in trade and services coupled with a 1,000 increase in manufacturing pushed private sector employment up 7,800 to 1,235,600. Government jobs inched 200 higher to 287,900. The state's unemployment rate rose to 6.6% in May attributed to weaker than expected seasonal hiring. South Carolina's unemployment rate, however, continued to remain well below the national level of 7.5%.

South Carolina's Unemployment Rates
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Seasonal Expansion in Trade and Services...

Employers in trade and services remained somewhat cautious in May, exhibiting less than normal seasonal expansion. Trade jobs increased 3,800 to 336,000 with retail establishments accounting for 97% of the growth. Eating and drinking places, food stores, and general merchandise stores all posted healthy gains. Service sector employment climbed 2,700 to a new all-time high of 304,300 in May. Within services, hotels and other lodging places, and health services added 600 and 300 jobs, respectively. In the state's manufacturing sector, recalls from temporary layoffs aided the job upswing. Factory employment hit 366,000 in May as both durable and nondurable-good employers placed additional workers on payrolls. South Carolina's manufacturing workweek edged up 0.1 hour to 41.7 hours, and average hourly earnings gained $0.01 to $9.44. Nationally, the manufacturing workweek jumped 0.7 hour to 41.4 while average hourly earnings rose $0.03 to $11.44. Productivity at the state's factories increased 0.4 point to 100 points in May. Output per hour at durable- and nondurable-good plants was up 0.2 and 0.5 point, respectively. Finance, insurance, and real estate created 400 positions during May. Contract completions and rainy weather caused employment in construction to hold steady over the month at 78,700. Jobs in transportation and public utilities slipped 100 to 63,800.

Summer Hiring in Government...

In the public sector, summer hiring in local government pushed government employment to 287,900. Other state government also added 100 workers in May. State and local education employment each registered a seasonal retraction of 200 in May. The federal job count declined 100 during the month to 35,800.

(continued on page 2)

South Carolina's Employment Trends **is produced monthly by the Labor Market Information (LMI) Division of the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. Please direct questions or comments to the Labor Market Information Division, (803) 737-2660.**

(continued from page 1)

Outlook...

South Carolina's economy is expected to produce strong tourism-related job gains in trade and services for June. Government employment should turn downward as the state's schools and colleges recess for the summer. The state's unemployment rate is expected to fluctuate over the next few months, but the long-term trend should be downward.

For your information...

To obtain more information on the outlook for South Carolina's economy, **South Carolina Economic Indicators** provides a monthly summary of 16 different measures of business conditions in the state. The Composite Index of Leading Indicators and Composite Index of Coincident Indicators are comprised of 8 variables each. Those indices are intended to measure future and current economic conditions, respectively. The Diffusion Index of Major Employment Sectors is a separate composite number that shows how many of the state's major industry groups expanded during the month. Produced in conjunction with the University of South Carolina, the publication is free of charge. To be put on the mailing list, call Labor Market Information at (803) 737-2660 or write to P.O. Box 995, Columbia, SC 29202.

Civilian Labor Force Summary
May 1992

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
United States (seas. adj.)			
Civilian Labor Force	127,160,000	126,830,000	125,259,000
Total Employment	117,656,000	117,675,000	116,730,000
Total Unemployment	9,504,000	9,155,000	8,529,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.2	6.8
South Carolina (seas. adj.)			
Civilian Labor Force	1,760,400	1,761,100	1,741,200
Total Employment	1,643,400	1,649,300	1,630,200
Total Unemployment	117,000	111,800	111,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.6	6.3	6.4
Greenville-Spartanburg MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	346,530	344,870	344,800
Total Employment	328,440	328,140	326,740
Total Unemployment	18,080	16,730	18,060
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.2	4.9	5.2
Columbia MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	246,720	245,160	247,520
Total Employment	234,790	234,130	236,650
Total Unemployment	11,930	11,030	10,870
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	4.5	4.4
Charleston MSA			
Civilian Labor Force	246,090	243,430	243,220
Total Employment	231,300	229,790	232,160
Total Unemployment	14,790	13,640	11,060
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	5.6	4.5

Labor Force and Unemployment for Selected Cities in South Carolina

May 1992

City	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Anderson	13,750	13,680	13,660	1,120	1,050	1,180	8.2	7.7	8.6
Charleston	40,410	39,920	39,820	2,460	2,220	1,730	6.1	5.6	4.3
Columbia	48,520	48,100	48,560	2,990	2,700	2,670	6.2	5.6	5.5
Florence	16,780	16,660	16,470	1,100	1,000	890	6.5	6.0	5.4
Goose Creek	7,200	7,150	7,130	440	430	340	6.1	6.0	4.8
Greenville	35,040	34,890	34,670	2,200	2,090	2,000	6.3	6.0	5.8
Mt. Pleasant	9,440	9,350	9,380	290	260	200	3.1	2.8	2.1
Myrtle Beach	14,840	14,570	14,250	640	660	590	4.3	4.5	4.1
North Charleston	24,420	24,050	23,820	2,290	2,060	1,610	9.4	8.6	6.8
Rock Hill	23,980	23,720	23,380	1,960	1,810	1,700	8.2	7.6	7.3
Spartanburg	23,780	23,600	23,850	1,460	1,310	1,650	6.1	5.5	6.9
Sumter	12,360	12,250	11,910	1,050	1,010	1,350	8.5	8.2	11.3

Labor Force and Unemployment in South Carolina by County and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
May 1992

County	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Abbeville	11,010	10,740	11,050	720	620	1,070	6.6	5.7	9.7
Aiken	69,990	69,690	68,370	3,790	3,510	3,500	5.4	5.0	5.1
Allendale	6,040	5,920	5,750	490	400	510	8.0	6.8	8.9
Anderson MSA	71,020	70,750	70,500	4,470	4,190	4,710	6.3	5.9	6.7
Bamberg	6,800	6,780	6,860	720	640	800	10.6	9.5	11.7
Barnwell	9,280	9,170	8,900	1,200	1,060	1,310	12.9	11.6	14.7
Beaufort	38,790	38,690	37,440	1,650	1,630	1,250	4.2	4.2	3.3
Berkeley	55,840	55,430	55,290	3,160	3,090	2,410	5.7	5.6	4.4
Calhoun	4,800	4,750	4,720	420	330	420	8.7	7.0	8.9
Charleston	151,090	149,230	148,820	9,430	8,500	6,640	6.2	5.7	4.5
Cherokee	23,190	23,050	23,370	1,480	1,300	1,690	6.4	5.7	7.2
Chester	13,880	13,770	14,100	1,690	1,590	1,970	12.1	11.5	14.0
Chesterfield	21,270	21,150	21,180	1,180	1,090	1,340	5.5	5.1	6.3
Clarendon	12,030	12,000	12,140	1,230	1,170	1,120	10.2	9.7	9.2
Colleton	18,660	18,610	18,330	1,430	1,420	1,490	7.7	7.6	8.1
Darlington	30,250	30,530	29,040	2,620	2,250	2,250	8.7	7.4	7.7
Dillon	14,110	13,990	14,210	1,340	1,300	1,460	9.5	9.3	10.3
Dorchester	39,160	38,770	39,110	2,200	2,050	2,010	5.6	5.3	5.1
Edgefield	7,090	7,090	7,040	460	370	460	6.5	5.2	6.5
Fairfield	10,060	10,000	9,850	970	890	1,120	9.7	8.9	11.4
Florence MSA	60,950	60,490	59,760	4,220	3,830	3,410	6.9	6.3	5.7
Georgetown	24,420	24,130	23,330	1,830	1,760	1,730	7.5	7.3	7.4
Greenville	179,950	179,300	178,200	9,460	8,970	8,590	5.3	5.0	4.8
Greenwood	29,300	29,240	28,980	2,050	1,740	2,170	7.0	5.9	7.5
Hampton	7,260	7,200	7,270	620	560	530	8.5	7.8	7.3
Horry	82,130	80,710	78,810	5,050	5,220	4,640	6.1	6.5	5.9
Jasper	6,580	6,590	6,230	370	380	270	5.6	5.8	4.3
Kershaw	20,310	20,110	19,800	1,800	1,570	1,770	8.9	7.8	8.9
Lancaster	25,570	25,550	25,760	2,410	2,170	2,050	9.4	8.5	8.0
Laurens	24,320	24,240	24,450	1,760	1,660	1,660	7.2	6.8	6.8
Lee	9,270	9,250	9,000	630	630	560	6.8	6.8	6.2
Lexington	98,640	98,220	99,130	4,280	4,120	4,020	4.3	4.2	4.1
McCormick	3,040	2,970	3,360	310	280	500	10.2	9.3	14.9
Marion	15,080	15,070	15,530	1,900	1,940	1,950	12.6	12.9	12.6
Marlboro	12,020	11,940	12,300	1,180	1,100	1,530	9.8	9.2	12.4
Newberry	15,840	15,880	15,520	1,170	1,140	870	7.4	7.2	5.6
Oconee	29,530	29,640	30,230	2,400	2,490	2,370	8.1	8.4	7.8
Orangeburg	41,080	40,870	41,250	3,410	3,070	3,020	8.3	7.5	7.3
Pickens	50,360	50,090	50,180	2,690	2,440	2,730	5.3	4.9	5.4
Richland	148,090	146,950	148,390	7,660	6,910	6,850	5.2	4.7	4.6
Saluda	9,370	9,340	8,640	480	390	430	5.1	4.2	5.0
Spartanburg	116,200	115,490	116,430	5,940	5,330	6,740	5.1	4.6	5.8
Sumter	40,710	40,360	39,190	3,360	3,230	4,320	8.3	8.0	11.0
Union	14,490	14,390	14,240	1,210	1,200	1,320	8.3	8.3	9.3
Williamsburg	16,690	16,650	16,550	1,270	1,180	1,510	7.6	7.1	9.1
York	74,940	74,220	73,190	5,170	4,780	4,500	6.9	6.4	6.1
Charleston MSA	246,090	243,430	243,220	14,790	13,640	11,060	6.0	5.6	4.5
Columbia MSA	246,720	245,160	247,520	11,930	11,030	10,870	4.8	4.5	4.4
Greenville MSA	346,530	344,870	344,800	18,080	16,730	18,060	5.2	4.9	5.2
South Carolina (seas. adj.)	**1,760.4**	**1,761.1**	**1741.2**	**117.0**	**111.8**	**111.0**	**6.6**	**6.3**	**6.4**

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina
May 1992

	May 1992	Apr 1992	May 1991	Net Changes From: Apr 1992	Net Changes From: May 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**1,503,800**	**1,495,800**	**1,526,800**	**+8,000**	**-23,000**
Total Private	1,215,900	1,208,100	1,235,600	+7,800	-19,700
Mining	1,700	1,700	1,900	0	-200
Construction	78,700	78,700	91,300	0	-12,600
Heavy Construction, Excluding Building	9,900	10,000	11,300	-100	-1,400
Highway and Street Construction	2,700	2,600	2,800	+100	-100
Heavy Construction, Excluding Highway	7,200	7,400	8,500	-200	-1,300
Special Trade Contractors	40,700	40,200	44,900	+500	-4,200
Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning	9,800	9,800	11,200	0	-1,400
Electrical Work	9,600	9,400	10,100	+200	-500
Manufacturing	**366,000**	**365,000**	**368,800**	**+1,000**	**-800**
Durable Goods	127,000	126,800	130,300	+200	-3,300
Lumber and Wood Products	13,800	13,800	14,200	0	-400
Sawmills and Planing Mills	4,300	4,300	4,600	0	-300
Millwork, Plywood, and Structural Members	2,800	2,900	3,100	-100	-300
Furniture and Fixtures	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0
Household Furniture	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	+100
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	8,900	9,000	9,600	-100	-700
Glass and Glassware, Pressed or Blown	3,100	3,000	3,300	+100	-200
Concrete, Gypsum, and Plaster Products	2,300	2,300	2,600	0	-300
Primary Metal Industries	9,000	8,900	8,900	+100	+100
Fabricated Metal Products	16,400	16,200	16,600	+200	-200
Cutlery, Hand Tools, and Hardware	2,300	2,300	2,500	0	-200
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	6,100	6,000	6,300	+100	-200
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	34,900	35,300	35,900	-400	-1,000
Metalworking Machinery	5,800	5,900	6,300	-100	-500
Special Industry Machinery	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	-100
General Industrial Machinery	7,300	7,300	7,500	0	-200
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	21,100	20,900	21,500	+200	-400
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	2,000	2,000	2,400	0	-400
Household Appliances	3,400	3,300	3,000	+100	+400
Electronic Components and Accessories	7,100	7,100	7,300	0	-200
Transportation Equipment	9,800	9,700	10,300	+100	-500
Instruments and Related Products	5,500	5,500	5,700	0	-200
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	3,500	3,400	3,500	+100	0
Nondurable Goods	239,000	238,200	236,500	+800	+2,500
Food and Kindred Products	14,500	14,200	14,300	+300	+200
Meat Products	5,500	5,300	5,200	+200	+300
Beverages	2,000	2,000	2,200	0	-200
Textile Mill Products	97,100	91,900	93,100	-200	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	23,100	23,200	24,500	-100	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	22,500	22,500	23,100	0	-600
Knitting Mills	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	14,900	15,000	15,000	-100	-100
Finishing Plants, Cotton	7,700	7,700	7,900	0	-200
Finishing Plants, Manmade	6,500	6,500	6,300	0	+200
Yarn and Thread Mills	9,800	9,900	9,600	-100	+200
Yarn Spinning Mills	9,200	9,200	9,000	0	+200
Miscellaneous Textile Goods	7,000	7,000	7,100	0	-100
Apparel and Other Textile Products	37,600	37,700	36,600	-100	+1,000
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	9,700	9,700	9,100	0	+600
Men's and Boys' Shirts	5,300	5,200	5,200	+100	+100
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	11,600	11,500	11,500	+100	+100
Women's and Misses' Blouses and Shirts	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-100
Women's and Children's Undergarments	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
Girls and Children's Outerwear	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
Miscellaneous Apparel and Accesories	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	+100
Miscellaneous Fabricated Textile Products	9,500	9,600	9,500	-100	0

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina (continued)

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	Net Changes From: Apr. 1992	Net Changes From: May 1991
Paper and Allied Products	17,900	17,800	17,300	+100	+600
Paperboard Mills	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	+100
Miscellaneous Converted Paper Products	4,900	4,900	4,600	0	+300
Printing and Publishing	11,500	11,400	11,700	+100	-200
Newspapers	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
Commercial Printing	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
Chemicals and Allied Products	41,600	41,300	40,000	+300	+1,600
Plastics Materials and Synthetics	15,000	14,900	14,900	+100	+100
Industrial Organic Chemicals	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	+100
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products	23,200	23,000	22,600	+200	+600
Fabricated Rubber Products, Not Elsewhere Classified	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	+100
Misc. Plastics Products, Not Elsewhere Classified	10,200	10,000	9,900	+200	+300
Transportation and Public Utilities	**63,800**	**63,900**	**65,400**	**-100**	**-1,600**
Trucking and Warehousing	19,500	19,500	19,500	0	0
Water Transportation	3,400	3,500	3,500	-100	-100
Communications	13,100	13,000	13,600	+100	-500
Telephone Communications	8,600	8,500	9,100	+100	-500
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services	15,700	15,900	16,300	-200	-600
Electric Services	8,700	8,800	9,600	-100	-900
Combination Utility Services	4,300	4,200	4,300	+100	0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**336,000**	**332,200**	**344,700**	**+3,800**	**-8,700**
Wholesale Trade	57,400	57,300	58,900	+100	-1,500
Wholesale Trade—Durable Goods	31,400	31,500	32,300	-100	-900
Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	9,100	9,100	9,600	0	-500
Wholesale Trade—Nondurable Goods	26,000	25,800	26,600	+200	-600
Groceries and Related Products	8,700	8,700	9,100	0	-400
Groceries, General Line	4,500	4,400	4,400	+100	+100
Petroleum and Petroleum Products	3,600	3,600	3,300	0	+300
Retail Trade	278,600	274,900	285,800	+3,700	-7,200
Building Materials and Garden Supplies	11,400	11,100	11,900	+300	-500
Lumber and Other Building Materials	6,500	6,300	6,300	+200	+200
General Merchandise Stores	34,100	33,700	35,800	+400	-1,700
Food Stores	52,200	51,600	51,300	+600	+900
Grocery Stores	49,300	48,800	48,300	+500	+1,000
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**65,400**	**65,000**	**66,500**	**+400**	**-1,100**
Depository Institutions	22,200	22,100	22,700	+100	-500
Commercial Banks	15,100	15,100	15,500	0	-400
National Commercial Banks	9,000	9,000	9,200	0	-200
Insurance Carriers	13,000	13,000	13,200	0	-200
Life Insurance	5,200	5,200	5,500	0	-300
Services	**304,300**	**301,600**	**299,000**	**+2,700**	**+5,300**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	23,800	23,200	25,400	+600	-1,600
Health Services	64,400	64,100	61,700	+300	+2,700
Nursing and Personal Care Facilities	12,300	12,200	11,900	+100	+400
Hospitals	23,100	23,100	21,800	0	+1,300
Educational Services	26,800	27,000	23,600	-200	+3,200
Colleges and Universities	15,800	16,000	13,900	-200	+1,900
Total Government	**287,900**	**287,700**	**291,200**	**+200**	**-3,300**
Total Federal Government	35,800	35,900	38,300	-100	-2,500
Total State and Local Government	252,100	251,800	252,900	+300	-800
Total State Government	102,400	102,500	99,600	-100	+2,800
State Government Education	43,400	43,600	40,300	-200	+3,100
Other State Government	59,000	58,900	59,300	+100	-300
Total Local Government	149,700	149,300	153,300	+400	-3,600
Local Government Education	80,100	80,300	86,400	-200	-6,300
Other Local Government	69,600	69,000	66,900	+600	+2,700

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina
May 1992

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	Net Change From: Apr. 1992	Net Change From: May 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**1,491,100**	**1,495,700**	**1,513,800**	**-4,600**	**-22,700**
Total Private	**1,206,800**	**1,212,800**	**1,228,700**	**-6,000**	**-19,900**
Construction	**78,700**	**79,900**	**91,300**	**-1,200**	**-12,600**
Manufacturing	**366,700**	**367,100**	**367,500**	**-400**	**-800**
Durable Goods	126,800	127,400	130,100	-600	-3,300
Lumber and Wood Products	13,700	13,900	14,100	-200	-400
Furniture and Fixtures	4,000	4,100	4,000	-100	0
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	8,800	9,000	9,500	-200	-700
Primary Metal Industries	9,000	9,000	8,900	0	+100
Fabricated Metal Products	16,500	16,400	16,600	+100	-100
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	34,800	35,100	35,800	-300	-1,000
Special Industry Machinery	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	-100
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	21,200	21,100	21,600	+100	-400
Nondurable Goods	239,900	239,700	237,300	+200	+2,600
Food and Kindred Products	14,600	14,400	14,400	+200	+200
Textile Mill Products	91,700	92,300	93,100	-600	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	23,300	23,400	24,700	-100	-1,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	22,500	22,600	23,100	-100	-600
Knitting Mills	6,900	7,000	6,900	-100	0
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	15,000	15,000	15,100	0	-100
Yarn and Thread Mills	9,700	9,900	9,500	-200	+200
Apparel and Other Textile Products	37,900	38,100	36,900	-200	+1,000
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	9,600	9,600	9,000	0	+600
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	11,700	11,600	11,600	+100	+100
Miscellaneous Fabricated Textile Products	9,600	9,700	9,600	-100	0
Paper and Allied Products	17,900	17,800	17,300	+100	+600
Printing and Publishing	11,500	11,500	11,700	0	-200
Chemicals and Allied Products	42,000	41,800	40,400	+200	+1,600
Plastic Materials and Synthetics	15,000	15,000	14,900	0	+100
Transportation and Public Utilities	**63,700**	**64,300**	**65,400**	**-600**	**-1,700**
Trucking and Warehousing	19,600	19,700	19,600	-100	0
Communication	13,100	13,100	13,600	0	-500
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary Services	15,600	15,900	16,200	-300	-600
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**333,200**	**334,300**	**341,700**	**-1,100**	**-8,500**
Wholesale Trade	57,500	57,700	59,000	-200	-1,500
Retail Trade	275,700	276,600	282,700	-900	-7,000
General Merchandise Stores	34,600	35,100	36,300	-500	-1,700
Food Stores	51,900	51,900	51,000	0	+900
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**65,100**	**65,400**	**66,200**	**-300**	**-1,100**
Insurance Carriers	13,000	13,100	13,200	-100	-200
Services	**299,700**	**300,000**	**294,300**	**-300**	**+5,400**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	22,100	22,300	23,600	-200	-1,500
Educational Services	25,800	26,000	22,700	-200	+3,100
Total Government	**282,300**	**282,900**	**284,400**	**-600**	**-2,100**
Total Federal Government	35,300	35,900	37,800	-600	-2,500
Total State Government	102,000	101,400	99,200	+600	+2,800
Total Local Government	145,000	145,600	148,400	-600	-3,400

Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Average Hours and Earnings in South Carolina
May 1992

	Manufacturing Production Workers Employment				
				Net Change From:	
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Manufacturing	**274,600**	**274,100**	**275,900**	**+500**	**-1,300**
Durable Goods	**94,400**	**94,400**	**97,100**	**0**	**-2,700**
Lumber and Wood Products	11,200	11,200	11,500	0	-300
Furniture and Fixtures	2,800	2,700	2,700	+100	+100
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	7,000	7,100	7,500	-100	-500
Fabricated Metal Products	11,300	11,200	11,500	+100	-200
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	25,500	25,800	26,300	-300	-800
Special Industry Machinery	3,600	3,700	3,700	-100	-100
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	15,900	15,800	16,100	+100	-200
Instruments and Related Products	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
Nondurable Goods	**180,200**	**179,700**	**178,800**	**+500**	**+1,400**
Food and Kindred Products	10,200	9,900	9,800	+300	+400
Textile Mill Products	78,500	78,700	80,000	-200	-1,500
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	21,300	21,400	22,500	-100	-1,200
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	19,600	19,600	20,100	0	-500
Knitting Mills	6,100	6,100	6,200	0	-100
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	12,000	12,100	12,200	-100	-200
Yarn and Thread Mills	8,400	8,500	8,200	-100	+200
Apparel and Other Textile Products	30,900	31,000	30,200	-100	+700
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	8,700	8,700	8,100	0	+600
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	9,300	9,300	9,300	0	0
Paper and Allied Products	12,200	12,200	11,800	0	+400
Printing and Publishing	6,100	6,100	6,200	0	-100
Chemicals and Allied Products	24,100	23,900	23,300	+200	+800

	Average Weekly Earnings ($)			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings ($)		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr 1992	May 1991
Manufacturing	**393.65**	**392.29**	**370.78**	**41.7**	**41.6**	**40.7**	**9.44**	**9.43**	**9.11**
Durable Goods	**410.45**	**409.07**	**379.22**	**42.8**	**42.7**	**41.4**	**9.59**	**9.58**	**9.16**
Lumber and Wood Products	332.64	332.27	322.82	42.0	41.9	41.6	7.92	7.93	7.76
Furniture and Fixtures	296.12	286.48	274.82	40.9	39.9	39.6	7.24	7.18	6.94
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	449.21	447.07	418.99	42.1	41.9	40.6	10.67	10.67	10.32
Fabricated Metal Products	401.85	399.75	374.66	41.3	41.0	40.2	9.73	9.75	9.32
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	445.88	442.09	404.58	43.5	43.3	41.2	10.25	10.21	9.82
Special Industry Machinery	452.03	440.79	442.2<	44.1	43.3	44.4	10.25	10.18	9.96
Electronic and Other Elect. Equip.	381.55	385.53	366.69	42.3	42.6	42.1	9.02	9.05	8.71
Instruments and Related Products	403.20	394.27	368.42	45.0	44.3	43.6	8.96	8.90	8.45
Nondurable Goods	**384.29**	**382.94**	**365.92**	**41.1**	**41.0**	**40.3**	**9.35**	**9.34**	**9.08**
Food and Kindred Products	328.45	333.29	317.46	40.6	41.3	39.0	8.09	8.07	8.14
Textile Mill Products	364.37	363.44	334.22	41.5	41.3	39.6	8.78	8.80	8.44
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	369.90	373.50	343.33	41.1	41.5	39.6	9.00	9.00	8.67
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	382.01	380.70	340.49	40.9	40.5	38.3	9.34	9.40	8.89
Knitting Mills	316.59	315.59	276.57	42.1	41.8	38.2	7.52	7.55	7.24
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	373.09	366.08	361.54	42.3	41.6	41.7	8.82	8.80	8.67
Yarn and Thread Mills	320.58	313.10	295.54	41.1	40.4	39.3	7.80	7.75	7.52
Apparel and Other Textile Products	239.51	237.12	225.95	37.6	37.4	36.8	6.37	6.34	6.14
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	253.49	250.13	226.04	39.3	38.9	37.8	6.45	6.43	5.98
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	206.83	207.57	207.02	37.0	37.4	37.3	5.59	5.55	5.55
Paper and Allied Products	611.89	605.64	578.46	45.8	45.4	44.6	13.36	13.34	12.97
Printing and Publishing	383.94	383.17	365.19	38.9	38.9	38.2	9.87	9.85	9.56
Chemicals and Allied Products	512.10	512.89	489.62	41.6	41.8	40.7	12.31	12.27	12.03

Agricultural News

Seasonal Labor...

Approximately 2,477 seasonal farmworkers were employed throughout South Carolina in May.

Weather Conditions...

Cooler than normal temperatures and rainy weather dominated most of May, interrupted during the month by warmer, more seasonal temperatures. Many locations set record low maximum temperatures on the 6th, 7th, and 8th. Caesar's Head, in Greenville County, had 2.5 inches of snow, setting a record for the latest measurable snowfall in the State. By the week ending May 31, 1992, soil moisture ratings were 61 percent short and 39 percent adequate. An average of 5.4 days were available for field work activities.

Field Crops...

Corn and tobacco planting were completed early in the month, with the crop conditions rated as fair to good. Cotton and peanut planting neared completion ahead of the normal pace for the time of year, with the crop conditions rated as fair to good. Sorghum and sweet potato planting began behind the normal pace due to wet, cool temperatures. Soybean planting was also slightly behind the normal pace.

Fruits and Vegetables...

Cantaloup, watermelon, and cucumber planting all continued at near the normal pace for the time of year, with each crop condition rated as fair to good. Snap bean planting was behind the normal pace,with the crop condition rated as fair to good. Peach harvesting began behind the normal pace for the time of year, with the crop condition rated as fair.

Small Grains and Pastures...

Cooler temperatures slowed wheat and oat heading to behind normal for the time of year. By the end of the period wheat, oat, and rye harvesting were well behind normal, with each crop condition rated as fair to good. Barley was turning color ahead of the normal pace and was also rated as fair to good. Pastures maintained a fair to good rating throughout May.

South Carolina Weekly Crop Statistics
Week Ending May 31,1992

Crop	Phase	Percent Completed(%) Current	Year Ago
Barley	Ripe	25	50
Cantaloups	Planted	88	86
Cotton	Planted	97	93
Cucumbers	Planted	92	94
Grain Hay	Harvested	72	68
Oats	Harvested	8	18
Peaches	Harvested	3	4
Peanuts	Planted	95	97
Rye	Harvested	9	17
Snap Beans	Planted	79	75
Sorghum	Planted	34	42
Soybeans	Planted	33	28
Sweet Potatoes	Planted	47	64
Watermelons	Planted	92	91
Wheat	Harvested	2	17

Metropolitan Statistical Area News

Summary

Seasonal trends prevailed in trade and services causing the state's major metropolitan statistical areas to add 2,200 jobs in May. This growth boosted the total jobcount in the MSAs to 779,700, which was still 5,600 below the year-ago level. Performances were mixed among the remaining industry divisions producing a overall job decline of 200 in those areas.

Charleston MSA
(includes Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties)

Seasonal activity, spurred by increased tourism, yielded 1,400 new jobs in the Charleston Metro Area in May. Retail trade added 700 jobs over the month, mostly in eating and drinking places, and in other establishments catering to tourism. Hiring activity was also reported in the service industry as employment rose 500 due to increases in hotels and other lodging places, personal services, and amusement and recreation. Employment in the public sector climbed 200 primarily in local government, while federal workers felt a cut of 100 jobs. Contract completions coupled with rainy weather lowered construction employment 100 over the month and 1,000 from a year earlier. Manufacturing; and finance, insurance, and real estate experienced no change during May.

Unemployment in the MSA rose .4 percentage point to 6.0% in May. Charleston County's jobless rate increased to 6.2%, while the rates for Dorchester and Berkeley counties averaged 5.6% and 5.7%, respectively.

Columbia MSA
(includes Lexington and Richland counties)

Nonfarm employment in the Columbia MSA moved up 600 in May with most of the area's growth occurring in wholesale and retail trade. The retail division grew 300 over the month. Total trade accounted for 75% of the new jobs in the area. Marginal seasonal upturns of 100 each were found in services; transportation and public utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate during May. Public sector employment declined 100 as a 300 drop in state government, mainly in schools, overshadowed a minute increase in local government. The number of factory and construction jobs was unchanged from April.

Mirroring the state, Columbia's jobless rate rose .3 percentage point to 4.8% in May. Richland and Lexington counties saw higher unemployment rates of 5.2% and 4.3%, respectively.

Greenville-Spartanburg MSA
(includes Greenville, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties)

The Greenville-Spartanburg MSA's nonfarm jobcount expanded by 200 during May as seasonal expansions were recorded in trade and services. Together, these two divisions accounted for 700 new jobs. These gains, however, were partially offset by downturns in government and in the area's factories. Within trade, gains were made in both the retail (+400) and wholesale (+100) divisions. Services inched higher, adding 200 positions, while construction saw a modest 100-job increase. On the downside, manufacturing lost ground during May, reporting 100 fewer workers as a result of continued layoffs. The closing of schools for the summer caused government to drop 500 nonfaculty jobs from the payrolls. Meanwhile, transportation and public utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate remained unchanged from April to May.

Unemployment in the Greenville-Spartanburg area jumped from 4.9% to 5.2% in May. Spartanburg recorded the largest increase of half a point to 5.1%, while Pickens and Greenville counties each reported rates of 5.3%.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment
in the Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas
May 1992

	Greenville-Spartanburg			Columbia			Charleston		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**330,500**	**330,300**	**331,100**	**242,900**	**242,300**	**246,500**	**206,300**	**204,900**	**207,700**
Total Private	**285,800**	**285,100**	**287,200**	**175,300**	**174,600**	**176,200**	**150,700**	**149,500**	**152,700**
Construction and Mining	**22,000**	**21,900**	**24,900**	**11,300**	**11,300**	**12,800**	**13,100**	**13,100**	**14,000**
Special Trade Contractors	10,500	10,300	10,800						
Manufacturing	**93,800**	**93,900**	**95,000**	**25,800**	**25,800**	**26,300**	**20,500**	**20,500**	**21,000**
Durable Goods	32,300	32,400	32,800	11,700	11,700	12,000	11,200	11,100	11,600
Lumber and Wood Products	1,300	1,300	1,400	500	500	600	1,900	1,900	2,100
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products							800	800	900
Primary Metal Industries and Fabricated Metal Products	6,000	6,000	6,000	3,800	3,800	3,800	2,100	2,100	2,100
Industrial Machinery and Equip.	13,000	13,100	12,800	2,800	2,800	3,000	2,700	2,700	2,700
Metalworking Machinery	2,400	2,500	2,400						
Special Industry Machinery	3,800	3,800	4,100						
Computer and Office Equipment				1,100	1,100	1,300			
Transportation Equipment							1,900	1,800	2,000
Electronic and Other Electric Equip.	6,400	6,400	6,700	2,000	2,000	1,700			
Nondurable Goods	61,500	61,500	62,200	14,100	14,100	14,300	9,300	9,400	9,400
Food and Kindred Products	2,300	2,300	2,400	1,400	1,300	1,400			
Textile Mill Products	28,000	28,000	28,100	1,800	1,800	1,700	2,400	2,400	2,400
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	9,100	9,100	9,200						
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Man.	7,000	7,000	6,900						
Knitting Mills	1,100	1,100	1,100						
Textile Finishing, except Wool	3,000	3,100	3,300						
Carpets and Rugs	2,000	2,000	1,900						
Yarn and Thread Mills	2,700	2,700	2,600						
Apparel and Other Textile Products	5,900	6,000	6,200	1,500	1,500	1,500			
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	700	700	600						
Women's and Children's Outer and Underwear	2,600	2,600	2,900						
Paper and Allied Products	5,000	5,000	4,900	2,200	2,200	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,900
Misc. Converted Paper Products	3,700	3,700	3,500						
Printing and Publishing				2,500	2,500	2,500			
Chemicals and Allied Products	7,800	7,800	8,100	2,700	2,600	2,700	1,800	1,900	1,800
Plastics Materials and Synthetics	4,000	4,000	4,100						
Transportation and Public Utilities	**13,900**	**13,900**	**14,300**	**10,600**	**10,500**	**11,100**	**10,600**	**10,500**	**10,900**
Communications				3,100	3,100	3,400			
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**78,400**	**77,900**	**77,200**	**54,900**	**54,500**	**54,800**	**49,600**	**48,900**	**50,700**
Wholesale Trade	18,400	18,300	18,400	12,900	12,800	12,900	7,900	7,900	8,400
Retail Trade	60,000	59,600	58,800	42,000	41,700	41,900	41,700	41,000	42,300
General Merchandise Stores	7,000	6,900	6,700	5,700	5,600	5,600			
Food Stores				6,400	6,400	6,100			
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**12,400**	**12,400**	**12,300**	**19,700**	**19,600**	**19,500**	**7,500**	**7,500**	**7,900**
Insurance Carriers				6,400	6,400	6,100			
Services	**65,300**	**65,100**	**63,500**	**53,000**	**52,900**	**51,700**	**49,500**	**49,000**	**48,200**
Health Services	12,900	12,800	12,500	10,400	10,500	10,100			
Hospitals	4,000	4,000	3,800						
Membership Organizations				3,400	3,400	3,000			
Total Government	**44,700**	**45,200**	**43,900**	**67,600**	**67,700**	**70,300**	**55,600**	**55,400**	**55,000**
Total Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,100	8,300	8,200	8,100	16,900	17,000	18,400
Total State and Local Government	42,600	43,100	41,800	59,300	59,500	62,200	38,700	38,400	36,600
Total State Government	14,300	14,700	13,100	39,200	39,500	40,200	18,700	18,700	17,100
Total Local Government	28,300	28,400	28,700	20,100	20,000	22,000	20,000	19,700	19,500

Estimated Number of Manufacturing Production Workers and Average Hours and Earnings in Major Metropolitan Statistical Areas
May 1992

	Number of Production Workers			Average Hours Worked Per Week			Average Weekly Earnings (Dollars)			Average Hourly Earnings (Dollars)		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Greenville-Spartanburg												
Manufacturing	71,600	71,700	71,400	42.2	42.0	40.4	405.54	402.78	369.26	9.61	9.59	9.14
Durable Goods	22,900	23,000	23,200	44.4	44.2	42.1	457.76	453.49	411.74	10.31	10.26	9.78
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	9,400	9,500	9,500	45.7	45.5	43.7	502.70	497.32	461.04	11.00	10.93	10.55
Special Industry Machinery	2,500	2,500	2,600	46.1	45.7	44.7	469.76	463.86	438.95	10.19	10.15	9.82
Nondurable Goods	48,700	48,700	48,200	41.2	41.0	39.6	381.51	379.25	348.88	9.26	9.25	8.81
Textile Mill Products	24,800	24,800	24,200	40.3	40.1	39.1	360.28	359.30	333.91	8.94	8.96	8.54
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	6,400	6,400	6,100	39.8	39.2	39.8	361.78	357.50	345.07	9.09	9.12	8.67
Knitting Mills	900	900	900	34.5	35.1	36.2	261.86	265.01	273.67	7.59	7.55	7.56
Textile Finishing, Except Wool	2,500	2,600	2,700	43.5	42.6	37.8	374.97	364.66	312.23	8.62	8.56	8.26
Apparel and Other Textile Products	4,900	5,000	5,100	39.7	39.2	35.6	260.83	256.37	221.08	6.57	6.54	6.21
Chemicals and Allied Products	5,100	5,100	5,200	43.6	43.3	42.2	520.58	516.57	480.66	11.94	11.93	11.39
Columbia												
Manufacturing	17,900	17,800	17,500	41.8	41.7	40.5	421.34	420.34	380.30	10.08	10.08	9.39
Durable Goods	7,700	7,700	7,700	40.6	40.6	40.0	378.80	378.39	360.80	9.33	9.32	9.02
Fabricated Metal Products	2,100	2,100	2,100	39.0	39.7	39.0	365.43	371.99	365.04	9.37	9.37	9.36
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	1,300	1,300	1,400	40.6	40.1	43.3	421.83	416.24	444.69	10.39	10.38	10.27
Nondurable Goods	10,200	10,100	9,800	42.7	42.5	40.9	453.47	451.78	395.50	10.62	10.63	9.67
Textile Mill Products	1,700	1,700	1,600	42.8	42.4	36.7	383.92	380.33	320.39	8.97	8.97	8.73
Apparel and Other Textile Products	1,300	1,300	1,400	39.8	39.2	39.3	251.14	245.39	217.72	6.31	6.26	5.54
Charleston												
Manufacturing	14,600	14,500	14,300	41.8	41.9	40.2	403.79	404.34	375.47	9.66	9.65	9.34
Durable Goods	8,600	8,500	8,600	43.0	43.1	40.9	424.41	424.10	386.51	9.87	9.84	9.45
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	5,700	40.1	40.1	39.3	374.53	375.74	360.77	9.34	9.37	9.18

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina Counties
May 1992

	Total Nonfarm Employment			Manufacturing Employment			Nonmanufacturing Employment		
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Abbeville	7,100	7,010	6,910	3,770	3,730	3,630	3,330	3,280	3,280
Aiken	60,200	60,100	59,700	24,600	24,400	23,200	35,600	35,700	36,500
Allendale	4,090	4,050	3,870	1,510	1,510	1,320	2,580	2,540	2,550
Anderson	53,400	53,300	53,200	18,700	18,600	18,600	34,700	34,700	34,600
Bamberg	4,430	4,470	4,440	1,540	1,570	1,490	2,890	2,900	2,950
Barnwell	7,300	7,280	6,870	2,790	2,790	2,540	4,510	4,490	4,330
Beaufort	35,160	35,090	34,560	940	940	970	34,220	34,150	33,590
Berkeley	25,700	25,700	26,500	6,700	6,700	7,100	19,000	19,000	19,400
Calhoun	3,610	3,620	3,560	1,590	1,580	1,540	2,020	2,040	2,020
Charleston	160,400	159,100	160,900	9,300	9,300	9,400	151,100	149,800	151,500
Cherokee	17,880	17,890	17,960	8,630	8,630	8,820	9,250	9,260	9,140
Chester	11,250	11,230	11,260	5,580	5,610	5,730	5,670	5,620	5,530
Chesterfield	14,270	14,270	14,200	8,310	8,280	8,110	5,960	5,990	6,090
Clarendon	6,520	6,530	6,700	1,400	1,400	1,570	5,120	5,130	5,130
Colleton	10,050	10,030	9,940	2,080	2,050	2,070	7,970	7,980	7,870
Darlington	22,250	22,760	21,690	7,540	7,580	7,660	14,710	15,180	14,030
Dillon	8,890	8,890	8,940	3,280	3,260	3,190	5,610	5,630	5,750
Dorchester	20,200	20,100	20,300	4,500	4,500	4,500	15,700	15,600	15,800
Edgefield	4,450	4,500	4,450	1,650	1,710	1,730	2,800	2,790	2,720
Fairfield	7,300	7,320	7,070	2,210	2,200	2,080	5,090	5,120	4,990
Florence	55,100	55,000	55,100	13,400	13,300	13,500	41,700	41,700	41,600
Georgetown	18,680	18,480	17,940	4,990	4,940	4,630	13,690	13,540	13,310
Greenville	189,600	189,400	190,600	46,100	46,100	46,500	143,500	143,300	144,100
Greenwood	28,830	28,870	28,550	10,630	10,640	10,510	18,200	18,230	18,040
Hampton	5,240	5,230	5,360	1,580	1,550	1,620	3,660	3,680	3,740
Horry	71,620	70,280	69,240	6,020	6,030	5,800	65,600	64,250	63,440
Jasper	3,770	3,760	3,620	420	420	380	3,350	3,340	3,240
Kershaw	16,530	16,560	16,210	5,730	5,770	5,720	10,800	10,790	10,490
Lancaster	17,820	17,980	18,370	7,200	7,330	7,570	10,620	10,650	10,800
Laurens	19,750	19,790	20,060	7,310	7,300	7,250	12,440	12,490	12,810
Lee	3,710	3,700	3,630	1,260	1,250	1,200	2,450	2,450	2,430
Lexington	59,600	59,500	60,600	12,100	12,100	12,500	47,500	47,400	48,100
McCormick	2,180	2,140	2,340	620	620	610	1,560	1,520	1,730
Marion	11,950	11,870	12,400	5,220	5,150	5,230	6,730	6,720	7,170
Marlboro	8,540	8,540	8,530	3,640	3,650	3,650	4,900	4,890	4,880
Newberry	11,870	11,930	11,960	4,850	4,860	5,120	7,020	7,070	6,840
Oconee	23,530	23,550	24,330	10,110	10,090	10,260	13,420	13,460	14,070
Orangeburg	30,520	30,630	31,150	9,340	9,460	9,580	21,180	21,170	21,570
Pickens	35,400	35,500	35,100	11,300	11,300	11,300	24,100	24,200	23,800
Richland	183,300	182,800	185,900	13,700	13,700	13,800	169,600	169,100	4,790
Saluda	4,170	4,190	3,870	2,010	2,020	1,750	2,160	2,170	2,120
Spartanburg	105,500	105,400	105,400	36,400	36,500	37,200	69,100	68,900	68,200
Sumter	35,140	34,910	33,010	9,810	9,560	8,850	25,330	25,350	24,160
Union	10,510	10,440	10,270	5,340	5,320	5,250	5,170	5,120	5,020
Williamsburg	10,680	10,680	10,450	5,100	5,060	4,830	5,580	5,620	5,620
York	47,900	47,800	49,100	13,200	13,200	13,500	34,700	34,600	35,600

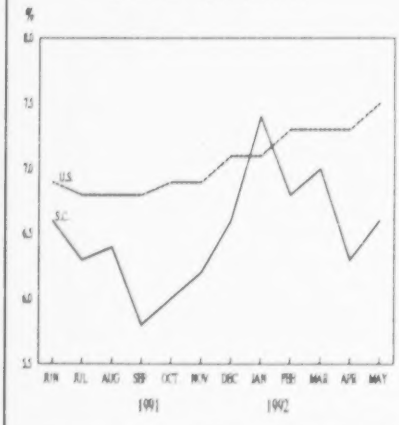
Female Employment in South Carolina
May 1992

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	Net Change From: Apr. 1992	Net Change From: May 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	**738,000**	**733,700**	**744,200**	**+4,300**	**-6,200**
Total Private	**560,500**	**556,300**	**563,700**	**+4,200**	**-3,200**
Construction	**6,500**	**6,600**	**8,200**	**-100**	**-1,700**
Manufacturing	**149,000**	**148,700**	**149,500**	**+300**	**-500**
Durable Goods	41,200	41,100	42,600	+100	-1,400
Lumber and Wood Products	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Fabricated Metal Products	3,400	3,400	3,500	0	-100
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	10,600	10,700	11,100	-100	-500
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	11,200	11,100	11,500	+100	-300
Instruments and Related Products	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	-100
Nondurable Goods	107,800	107,600	106,900	+200	+900
Food and Kindred Products	5,700	5,600	5,400	+100	+300
Textile Mill Products	40,700	40,700	41,300	0	-600
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Cotton	9,900	10,000	10,500	-100	-600
Broadwoven Fabric Mills, Manmade	10,100	10,100	10,400	0	-300
Knitting Mills	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0
Apparel and Other Textile Products	30,600	30,600	30,000	0	+600
Men's and Boys' Furnishings	8,700	8,700	8,200	0	+500
Women's and Misses' Outerwear	10,100	10,100	10,100	0	0
Paper and Allied Products	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	+100
Printing and Publishing	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	-100
Chemicals and Allied Products	11,200	11,200	10,900	0	+300
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products	10,800	10,700	10,500	+100	+300
Transportation and Public Utilities	**15,700**	**15,700**	**16,300**	**0**	**-600**
Communications	5,900	5,900	6,200	0	-300
Wholesale and Retail Trade	**169,500**	**167,300**	**174,300**	**+2,200**	**-4,800**
Wholesale Trade	15,800	15,700	16,100	+100	-300
Wholesale Trade—Durable Goods	7,400	7,400	7,600	0	-200
Wholesale Trade—Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,300	8,500	+100	-100
Retail Trade	153,700	151,600	158,200	+2,100	-4,500
General Merchandise Stores	24,500	24,300	25,800	+200	-1,300
Food Stores	25,100	24,800	24,700	+300	+400
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	**43,000**	**42,800**	**43,600**	**+200**	**-600**
Insurance Carriers	8,300	8,200	8,300	+100	0
Services	**176,700**	**175,100**	**171,700**	**+1,600**	**+5,000**
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	14,900	14,500	16,000	+400	-1,100
Health Services	54,000	53,800	51,800	+200	+2,200
Hospitals	18,900	18,900	17,900	0	+1,000
Educational Services	17,800	17,900	15,700	-100	+2,100
Total Government	**177,500**	**177,400**	**180,500**	**+100**	**-3,000**
Total Federal Government	12,000	12,100	12,900	-100	-900
Total State and Local Government	165,500	165,300	167,600	+200	-2,100
Total State Government	63,300	63,300	62,000	0	+1,300
State Government Education	20,800	20,900	19,300	-100	+1,500
Other State Government	42,500	42,400	42,700	+100	-200
Total Local Government	102,200	102,000	105,600	+200	-3,400
Local Government Education	63,300	63,400	68,200	-100	-4,900
Other Local Government	38,900	38,600	37,400	+300	+1,500

National News...

Leading Indicators Up Slightly... The index of key measures of future economic activity rose 0.6% in May to 149.9% of the 1982 average, indicating a certain amount of forward motion. Of the 11 components, 5 rose and 6 fell during the month. Material prices and workweek length were major factors in the increase.

U.S. and S.C.
Unemployment Rates
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Unemployment Rate Up... The national unemployment rate, which had shown little change over the previous 3 months, rose by 0.3 percentage point to 7.5% in May. Total employment was unchanged at 117.7 million, following larger gains in March and April. The number of jobless was up by 349,000 to 9.5 million in May, 11.4% above the May, 1991 level.

Nonfarm Employment Still Climbing... In May, nonfarm payroll employment grew by 68,000, continuing the slow upward trend evident since the beginning of the year. Employment in the service-producing sector grew for the sixth consecutive month, with a gain of 76,000. The service industry itself added 109,000 jobs, its largest single-month gain since March, 1990, with business services accounting for 39,000 of the increase. Employment in the health service industry continued its upward trend with a gain of 20,000 in May. Retail trade lost 44,000 jobs, after an increase of 83,000 in April. Finance continued to grow, adding 11,000 jobs, while manufacturing and construction showed no significant change in May.

Inflation Up 0.1%... Inflation edged up 0.1% in May, the smallest rise since January. The gain put the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers) at 139.7, which was 3.0% above the May, 1991 level. Food and beverage prices fell 0.3%, and the rise in transportation prices slowed, mainly due to airline discounts. Housing costs crept up 0.1% for the second month in a row. Medical care showed some relative price moderation, increasing 0.5% for the third consecutive month.

Sales Rise 0.2%... Retail sales rose 0.2% in May following a revised gain of 0.4% in April. The small increase in retail sales came mainly from a 0.4% jump in car sales. In the nondurable-good sector, a 0.7% gain in general-merchandise store sales offset declines in food, gasoline and clothing purchases. Sales of durable goods were up 1.4% in May.

U.S. Consumer Price Index
(CPI)
All Urban Consumers

Base Year 1982-1984=100.0

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
All Items	**139.7**	**139.5**	**135.6**

Industrial Output Climbs... Industrial production gained 0.6% in May, its fourth consecutive monthly increase. Auto and truck production posted the largest gain, 5.2%, which followed a 7.2% increase in that sector in April. Production of consumer goods and business equipment also rose, as did the output of furniture, textiles and chemicals. Industry operated at 79.0% of capacity in May, up from 78.7% in April.

Consumer Confidence Jumps... The Consumer Confidence Index jumped 6.5 points in May to 71.6 (1985=100). Since the decline in February, the index climbed more than 24 points. Consumer sentiment is considered a powerful indicator of future spending, which is the driving force behind economic recovery and expansion. According to the Conference Board, consumers' assessment of current business conditions has become less negative, though it is still low.

Technical Notes

South Carolina's Employment Trends is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary while all previous data are subject to revision. Industries are classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 1991 benchmark.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Therefore, these data are not strictly comparable with the labor force data which represent persons by place of residence. Excluded from wage and salary estimates are proprietors, self-employed workers, private household employees, and unpaid family workers. A small percentage of wage and salary workers cannot be allocated to specific counties because of the nature of their jobs. Therefore, county data will not add to state totals.

Production worker estimates include full- and part-time employees working within manufacturing industries. Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and are affected by such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Labor force data are adjusted to the Current Population Survey benchmark, and represent employment and unemployment by place of residence. These data are not comparable to the place-of-work industry employment series. Workers involved in labor disputes are counted as employed. Total employment in the labor force also includes agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, and self-employed. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing total unemployment by the labor force, and is expressed as a percent. Because of the conceptual differences stated above, total employment may in some instances be lower than nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

South Carolina Employment Security Commission
Labor Market Information Division
P.O. Box 995
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

U.S.MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

Contents...

State Overview ..... page 1
Civilian Labor Force Summary ..... page 2
Labor Force and Unemployment for Selected Cities ..... page 2
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina ..... page 4
Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in South Carolina ..... page 6
Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Hours and Earnings in South Carolina ..... page 7
Agricultural News ..... page 8
Metropolitan Statistical Area News ..... page 9
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in MSA's ..... page 10
Manufacturing Production Workers Employment and Hours and Earnings in MSA's ..... page 11
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Counties ..... page 12
Female Employment in South Carolina ..... page 13
National News ..... page 14